

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) W

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O 271946Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2730

S E C R E T LUSAKA 0227

NODIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AO, CG, US, ZA

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: AFRICAN APPEAL FOR SUPPORT FROM US AND CHONA
TRAVEL PLANS

REF: LUSAKA 206, 214, 215; KINSHASA 685

1. IN READING NGUZA'S VERSION OF HIS CONVERSATION IN LUSAKA WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA (KINSHASA REFTTEL) I WAS STRUCK BY VARIANCE IN BOTH TONE AND SUBSTANCE FROM REPORTS OF CONVERSATION AS GIVEN ME SEPARATELY BY PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER CHONA AND FONMIN BANDA. MAJOR POINTS OF DIFFERENCE ARE THAT KAUNDA WAS NOT RPT NOT "VERY RESPONSIVE" AND DID NOT RPT NOT PROMISE TO SEND FONMIN BANDA TO "JOIN" NGUZA IN WASHINGTON. ON CONTRARY, ZAMBIANS HAD MADE VERY CLEAR TO US THEIR INTENTION THAT ZAMBIAN MISSION TO WASHINGTON REMAIN QUITE DISTINCT FROM THAT OF ZAIRE AND OTHER AFRICANS WHO MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH IT. WE DO NOT KNOW IF LANGUAGE AND TRANSLATION PROBLEMS WERE AT FAULT; WHETHER NGUZA CHOSE TO PUT MOST FAVORABLE INTERPRETATION ON WHAT HE HEARD -- OR WANTED TO HEAR -- FROM KAUNDA; OR WHETHER HE MISSED SOME OF SUBTLETIES IN KAUNDA PRESENTATION WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY PHRASED IN GENERALITIES TO AVOID GIVING NEEDLESS OFFENSE TO MOBUTU.

2. JUST TO BE CERTAIN, I RAISED MATTER AGAIN DURING CONVERSATION JANUARY 27 WITH CHONA ON ANOTHER MATTER. SAID I WISHED CLARIFY A POINT REGARDING TWO REPORTS I RECEIVED FROM HIM AND FROM BANDA ON JOINT AFRICAN APPROACH IN WASHINGTON IN LIGHT OF IMPRESSIONS GAINED FROM EMBASSY KINSHASA REPORTING. WAS FONMIN BANDA
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INDEED TO JOIN NGUZA IN WASHINGTON BY AGREEMENT OR UNDERSTANDING

REACHED HERE IN LUSAKA? CHONA LOOKED VERY PUZZLED AND SAID QUITE DEFINITELY THAT WAS NOT RPT NOT THE UNDERSTANDING; IN FACT, FONMIN BANDA WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE TRAVELLING. ASKED IF BANDA WOULD BE GOING TO US IF NECESSARY, CHONA REPLIED: "YES, YOU MIGHT SAY 'IF NECESSARY.'"

3. I THEN TOOK LIBERTY OF SAYING I UNDERSTOOD THAT NGUZA MIGHT BE CARRYING LETTER FROM MOBUTU TO PRESIDENT FORD BUT ADDED I HAD NO IDEA WHAT SORT OF SCHEDULE PLANNED FOR NGUZA IN WASHINGTON. CHONA SEEMED INTERESTED BUT OFFERED NO COMMENT OR SUGGESTION RE HIS OWN SCHEDULE IN WASHINGTON. COMMENT: ASSUME DEPARTMENT PLANS COORDINATE TO SOME DEGREE TIMING OF NGUZA AND CHONA VISITS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE CALLS ON CONGRESS, TO AVOID CONFLICTS AND UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION. END COMMENT.

4. CHONA GAVE HIS ITINERARY AS FOLLOWS:

DEPART LUSAKA JANUARY 28 FOR LONDON TO LEAVE HIS SICK WIFE THERE FOR TREATMENT;

PARIS JANUARY 30;

BONN FEBRUARY 1;

NEW YORK FEBRUARY 3-4;

WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 5-7;

OTTAWA FEBRUARY 8.

5. WHEN I ASKED CHONA IF HE WISHED SHARE WITH US PURPOSE OF HIS VISITS TO FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY, HE SAID HE HAD HEARD THESE TWO COUNTRIES WERE INVOLVED IN ANGOLA AND WANTED TO LEARN DIRECTLY TO WHAT EXTENT. CHONA ADDED HALF-JOKINGLY THAT HE MIGHT BE GATHERING EVIDENCE FOR LEE KUAN YEW'S THESIS ABOUT UNRELIABILITY OF THE WEST (LUSAKA 0119).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CAT-C, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LUSAKA00227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760119/aaaaapqr.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 LUSAKA 206, 76 LUSAKA 214, 76 LUSAKA 215, 76 KINSHASA 685
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANGOLA: AFRICAN APPEAL FOR SUPPORT FROM US AND CHONA TRAVEL PLANS
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, AO, CG, US, ZA, XA, (CHONA, MATHIAS MAINZA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006